

Certain words strike patriotism in the heart of almost every American citizen: liberty, freedom, justice, and the Constitution, to name only a few. This sense of patriotism has driven many United States' citizens to volunteer for military service, both to protect their families and to protect their country. ~~But what~~ ^{What does America} ~~do we~~ ^{it} do, however, if ~~we~~ ^{it} need more military personnel to take care of America's interests? Both men and women should be required to perform two years of military service for ~~the~~ ~~for~~ many ~~following three reasons~~ ^{As} reasons. The military needs more personnel. Women are able to serve as well. Citizens have an obligation to fulfill.

First, the military needs more service men and women to maintain current military operations. At the present time, America has troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan. America has made many strides in the War on Terrorism, and one such step is the deployment of many troops. A threat has arisen within the past few years that has produced rumors of an upcoming war with Iran ~~of~~ over nuclear weapons. If current trends in North Korea in regards to Kim Jong Il's nuclear weapons program, military action might have to be taken there as well. This cannot happen, however, if ~~we do~~ ^{America does} not increase the amount of troops in the United States' military. As such, both men and women should be required to serve at least two years.

Also, many might argue that women should not be required to go. Obvious arguments of sexual differences and strength and physical differences have come up. However, aren't men

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required to sign up for the draft upon turning eighteen, or face not receiving college financial aid? If women want to be treated as equals, they should have the same requirements as men. If women want equal rights, they should do the same amount of work to receive those rights. Many might argue that women are not physically capable. While women may not be able to bench press the same weight as men, they can still participate in other, less strength-oriented military jobs.

Finally, as Americans ~~we~~^{all} simply have an obligation to fulfill. The Declaration of Independence states, "When a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, ~~even~~ evinces a design to reduce them to absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and provide new guards for their future security." When it is simplified, this passage basically says that ~~we as~~ Americans have the obligation to preserve of nation: to preserve its rights, to preserve ~~its~~ its beauty, to preserve what it ~~stands for~~^{stands for} means. One way to accomplish this is to serve a required ~~to~~^{two} years in the American armed forces.

All Americans, both men and women, should be required to serve two years of military service. ~~We need~~^{are needed,} More military personnel, women are as capable ~~as~~^{of} serving as men, and as citizens everyone has an obligation to fulfill. To serve America is the most honorable form of patriotism, and it is something every citizen should do in their life-time.

Score Point: 6

This response reflects outstanding proficiency in persuasive writing skills. The writer voices a strong opinion that all Americans should be required to perform two years of military service. The key ideas are specific, well developed, and often supported by historical references (America has troops in Iraq and Afghanistan; current trends in North Korea). Syntactic variety and facility in the use of language are clearly displayed and sustained (certain words strike patriotism in the heart of almost every American citizen; Americans have the obligation to preserve our nation: to preserve its rights, to preserve its beauty, to preserve what it means). In addition, the response is complete, unified, and well organized.